

## **TOWN OF TIVERTON**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL URGING IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF H-8015 and S-2864**

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, the Honorable Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, issued Executive Order 20-02 declaring a state of emergency due to the outbreak of COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the Town of Tiverton declared a municipal state of emergency which was later ratified by the Town Council at a special meeting on March 17, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, various executive orders have been issued at the state and local level limiting social gatherings which have also curtailed the ability of local governments to conduct in-person public hearings; and

**WHEREAS**, seventeen (17) municipalities use a Financial Town Referendum or Financial Town Meeting to adopt a municipal budget and property tax levy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tiverton Home Rule Charter mandates the approval of a budget by the voters of the Town after a public hearing and also allows for the submission of alternative citizen proposed budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, continued restrictions on public gatherings remain which has caused the Town to continue the date of its Financial Town Referendum; and

**WHEREAS**, current state law allows for a municipality to continue an appropriation from the prior year in the absence of a town budget but does not allow for the continuation of a tax levy; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation has recently been introduced in the General Assembly (H-8015) by Representative John Edwards which would give all municipalities in the State of Rhode Island options to continue with the prior year appropriation and carry forward the prior year municipal levy; and

**WHEREAS**, passage of such legislation would help ensure that the town of Tiverton has an adequate cash flow to meet its on-going obligations; and

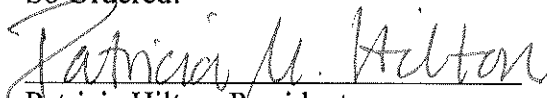
**WHEREAS**, the Tiverton Town Council and Administration is committed to holding a Financial Town Referendum in full compliance with the Home Rule Charter at a time and manner that will ensure broad participation while also protecting the health and safety of its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Rhode Island General Assembly is not expected to pass a state budget for Fiscal Year 2021 until July or August 2020 which has an effect on Town budgets including the state share of public education;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Town Council of the **Town of TIVERTON** support and urge immediate passage of H-8015 and S-2864 to aid the Town and other municipalities in their efforts to pass local budgets and tax levies in accordance with their Home Rule Charters while maintaining adequate cash flow to ensure the financial stability of the municipal governments;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tiverton Town Clerk is instructed to submit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Town's General Assembly Delegation and the Honorable Governor of the State of Rhode Island. I, Patricia Hilton, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the President of the Tiverton Town Council, pursuant to the Rhode Island General Laws and the Home Rule Charter of the Town of Tiverton do hereby order and direct the following:

So Ordered:

  
Patricia Hilton, President

In Witness Whereof, I hereby attach my hand and the official seal of the Town of Tiverton this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020.

  
Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk